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The WASHINGTON COPPERS of "1783"

● ● Robert A. Vlack; Plaistow, New Hampshire

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It is with sincere pleasure that we present in this issue this major work by Robert A. Vlack. Representing more than 25 years of cumulative research, the Washington Coppers of "1783" form the nucleus for vast numbers of Washington medals and tokens that have come into existance during the past 130 years. It is a priviledge for the Foundation to bring this research to the attention of our Patrons.

JCS

Sequential Page 635

THE WASHINGTON COPPERS OF "1783"

Robert A. Vlack

I. INTRODUCTION

Once upon a time, when numismatics was more of a hobby than a speculative investment-type enterprise, Dr. George Fuld and I undertook the study of the Washington Military and Draped Bust series to determine the number of die varieties that were known to exist. To be a bit more precise, this venture actually started about 1958 and continued until 1961 when an initial set of photographic plates was made. Since that time, George and I departed in geographically opposite directions and for many years lost communication with each other before we met again in New York for a pleasant reunion.

During the course of an evening together, it was decided that the information that was completed should be published or it may pass from the scene without any documentation whatsoever. A noteworthy point to mention here is the fact that the number of die varieties of the Military Bust has remained the same for over 15 years, and of the Draped Bust series, one new discovery, Lot 488 in the New Netherlands 60th Sale, December 1968, and one new die combination of the Draped Bust with Toga Button, is a testimony to the thoroughness of this arduous undertaking of a very complex series.

It is difficult to determine the exact number of specimens we have examined over the years, however, the rarity of these pieces as shown have a high degree of confidence since those that have a high rarity have not appeared in any number of years, while the more common varieties still continue to be located from time to time.

The illustrations have been carefully chosen not only to illustrate in detail the fine differences that occur, but, also selected to show as many die breaks as possible since these have become the easiest method by which the die varieties can be ascertained. The illustrations have also been enlarged for purposes of clarity to aid those collectors who wish to attempt the entire series. With the exception of the discovery piece in the New Netherlands Sale, a complete collection could be attainable with continued diligence and patience, and perhaps other specimens of the new variety may be discovered.

The Washington 1783 series of tokens were manufactured in England sometime during the mid-1800's, possibly as early as 1820. The 1783 date is significant in that it marks the conclusion of the American Revolution and commemorates that historic event rather than indicating the year in which they were struck. These specimens are considered the nucleus for the large numbers of "Washington" tokens, medals, storecards & etc. that followed this beginning; all specimens examined appear to have considerable wear indicating that they were circulated to some extent.

So -- for purposes of perpetuating the hobby, these are the varieties known to date. Should there be any new information uncovered, please do not hesitate to inform me, or better yet, please be SURE you inform me.

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II. The MILITARY BUST Series

Thomas Wells Ingram whose initials appear on the left side in the exergue on the reverse performed the engraving for this series. The initials E.S. which appear on the right side are believed to be for Edward Savage, painter and sculptor, who painted portraits of Washington from which this series was modeled. Ingram was employed at Birmingham, England by the Soho Mint between the years 1820 and 1865. This strongly suggests the year 1820 as the earliest possible date for the manufacture of this series. The seated figure of Britannia shown on the reverse was first engraved by Kuchler for the Boulton Soho coinage of 1797. Variety 1-A (with the smaller bust) exhibits a corded edge on some specimens -- a device not used on English trademans' tokens until the year 1810.

There are ten different obverse die varieties for the Military Bust series. These are illustrated on the Plate in combination with their respective reverses, of which there are seven, making a total of ten combinations. Written descriptions for each obverse and reverse die follow the Plate.

A general description of the obverse and reverse designs is as follows:

The obverse shows a bust of Washington, laureated and in military dress, facing to the left. The legend around the periphery reads, WASHINGTON & INDEPENDENCE, 1783.

The reverse shows a female figure facing left, seated upon a rock surrounded by water. In her right hand she holds an olive branch, and her left hand supports the staff of liberty with a cap on the end. Above the figure is the inscription, UNITED STATES, and in the exergue, the initials, T.W.I. and E.S.

VLACK RARITY VALUES

R8	1 or 2 known
R7	3 to 5
R6	6 to 10
R5	11 to 15
R4	16 to 20
R3	21 to 30
R2	31 to 45
R1	46 or more

Robert A. Vlack



1



2



3



6



E



7



A



B



C



9



8



10



4



D



5



F



G

● ● ● DESCRIPTIONS OF DIE VARIETIES ● ● ●

The MILITARY BUST Series

1-A MILITARY BUST Plain & Corded edge R4

Obverse 1

This is the only obverse with a small bust of Washington. The W starts well in front of the bust. The point of the wreath is close to, but not touching the base of I. The beads are very fine and close. There is a long crossbar to the G which is close to, but not touching the left serif of T. The C is defective on top, and the A at the right base. This variety (1-A) comes with both the plain and corded edge.

DIE BREAKS -- A break from the rim to the point of the bust through the space between the period and the W. Another from the rim through the center of the first N of WASHINGTON towards the chin. A break connects the base of WASHIN to the two previously mentioned breaks. A break from the rim through the upright of the first E of INDEPENDENCE to the wreath at the center of the head. From this break, another connects EPENDENCE along the bottoms and ends over the date. A break from the rim through the right side of the C to the previously mentioned break. Several others.

Reverse A

There are three berries on the branch. The cap extends between the T and the A, and touches the A. The I has two beads equally spaced over it, and the A points slightly right of a bead. The T of the initials is over the left side of a bead, and the S of the initials is over a bead with the lower curve of the S pointing to the lower portion of the period.

DIE BREAKS -- A minor break starts from the center of the top leaf toward the forehead.

2-B MILITARY BUST Plain edge R7

Obverse 2

The point of the wreath is close to, but not touching the base of I. The upright of the 7 points slightly right of a bead. The A points at a space between beads, and the I of INDEPENDENCE has a bead slightly left of its center. The W is normal. The C is defective on top. The date and ENDENCE may be recut.

DIE BREAKS -- From the rim through the second N of WASHINGTON towards the top of the nose.

Reverse B

No berries on the branch, only stems. The cap is very close to the left tip of A, but is not touching. The I has a bead over its center, and the A is pointing slightly right of a bead. The bottom of the branch points straight down. The T and the S of the initials is over a space between beads, with the curve of the S pointing to the center of the period which is low. The period after the W is closer to I.

3-C

MILITARY BUST

Plain edge

R7

Obverse 3

The point of the wreath heavily touches the left base of I. The 7 points at a bead, and the A at a space between beads. WASHINGTON shows signs of recutting. The C is defective on top.

DIE BREAKS -- A break from the center of the & sign through the top of I to another break that starts from the rim through the left upright of the N to the wreath.

Another break starts from the top of the same N curving through D and E ending at the bottom of P. Other breaks develop.

Reverse C

This reverse is similar to Reverse B. There is one berry on the branch plus two stems. The cap is located under the space between T and A and is rather close. The bottom of the cap has pointed ends and is smaller than any other reverse. The I has a bead over its center. The A points very slightly right of a bead with the right leg weak. The bottom of the branch points straight down. The T and the S of the initials is over a space between beads, with the lower curve of the S pointing to the center of the period. The N may be recut.

4-D

MILITARY BUST

Plain edge

R5

Obverse 4

The point of the wreath heavily touches the left base of I. The upright of the 7 points between beads. The A points to the left side of a bead, and the I of INDEPENDENCE has a bead slightly left of its center. The left crossbar of W is defective.

DIE BREAKS -- A break extends along the bottom of NGTON, across the wreath, to the first E of INDEPENDENCE, extending along the bottoms of EPENDENCE. A break from the rim through the left upright of the second N of INDEPENDENCE to the previously mentioned break. Another from the rim to between the second D and E, again to the previously mentioned break. Another break from the rim between the 8 and 3 to the bust. There is evidence of dies clashing on later die states.

Reverse D

The rock the female is seated upon is speckled. The branch has three berries with the lower berry having no apparent stem. The bottom of the branch is separated from the hand. A bead is right of the center of I, and the A points at a bead. The T of the initials is over a space between beads, and the period after the I is larger than the others. The S of the initials is over a bead, is higher than the E, with the lower curve of the S pointing to the period, which is high. The cap is distant from the left leg of A.

5-D

MILITARY BUST

Plain edge

R4

Obverse 5

The point of the wreath is close, but not touching the base of I. The upright of the 7 points at a bead. The A points slightly right of a space between beads, and the I of INDEPENDENCE has a bead slightly left of its center. The left crossbar of the W is defective, and the C is defective on top. The I of INDEPENDENCE is double cut with the other I showing at the left bottom of the base and side. All letters and date may show recutting. This die is very similar to Obverse 6. Basic differences are the straight top to the 3, and the absence of the weak strike at CE.

DIE BREAKS -- A break from the rim through the & sign to the point of intersection of the forehead and the first leaf of the wreath.

Reverse D -- Previously described

6-E

MILITARY BUST

Plain edge

R2

Obverse 6

The point of the wreath is close, but not touching the base of I. The top of the 3 has a wavy surface. The upright of the 7 points at a bead. The A points between beads, and the I of INDEPENDENCE has a bead over its center. The coin is weakly struck at CE with the E barely showing along the bottom. The I of INDEPENDENCE is recut with the base of the other I showing at the left bottom. DIE BREAKS -- A break from the rim through the 7 to the bust, extending into the bust towards the second button from the bottom. Another break from the rim through the center of the W to the top of the second button towards the end of the lapel. The final die state obliterates the W and the 1.

Reverse E

There are three berries on the branch. The beads may be flattened and not distinguishable. The center of the I points at a space between beads, and the A points slightly right of a bead. The T of the initials is over a bead. The S of the initials is over a space between beads, is slightly higher than the E, with the lower curve of the S pointing to the center of the period. The left portion of the water base in front of the feet may appear flattened. ES of STATES may be recut. The cap ends under the left leg of A and is distant.

7-E

MILITARY BUST

Plain edge

R1

Obverse 7

The point of the wreath touches the left base of I. The upright of the 7 points at a bead. The A points slightly left of a bead, and the I of INDEPENDENCE has a bead left of its center. The left serif of W is defective, and the C is defective on top.

DIE BREAKS -- A break starts from the lower ruffle of the bust along the bottom of HINGT through ON to the top of the & sign, to the rim. Another from the rim through the left upright of the first N of INDEPENDENCE to the top of the back leaf of the wreath. From this break at the base of the N, another break connects the base of NDE, and then curves into the field. Another break connects PE and also curves into the field towards the shoulder.

Reverse E -- Previously described

8-E

MILITARY BUST

Plain edge

R1

Obverse 8

The point of the wreath touches the left base of I. The upright of the 7 points at a bead. The A points at a space between beads, and the I of INDEPENDENCE has a bead slightly left of its center. The left serif of W is defective, and the C is defective on top. The 3 may show signs of recutting. The coin is more weakly struck at ON than Obverse 9, and is similar in this respect.

DIE BREAKS -- A break along the bottom of ENDENCE ending over the right top of the 3, but not touching. Another small break from the right upright of the second N of INDEPENDENCE to the rim.

Reverse E -- Previously described

9-F

MILITARY BUST

Plain edge

R2

Obverse 9

The point of the wreath is close, but not touching the left base of I. The upright of the 7 points very slightly right of a bead. The A points between beads, and the I of INDEPENDENCE has a bead over its center. The lower serif of the second E of INDEPENDENCE is double cut and is very obvious. The coin is weakly struck at ON with the bottom portion of both letters showing. The left serif of W is defective, and the C is defective on top. INDEPENDENCE may show signs of recutting.

DIE BREAKS -- A break from the rim through the right side of the upright of the I to the bust. A minor break connects N and C at the center, and from the top left of the last E to the rim.

Reverse F

There are four berries in the branch, with a double berry at the base of the top leaf. The I points left of a bead, and the A points right of a bead. The T of the initials is over a bead. The S of the initials is slightly right of a bead and is tilting left, with the lower curve pointing to the bottom of the period. The cap ends below the left leg of the A and is distant. The A may show recutting.

10-G

MILITARY BUST

Plain edge

R1

Obverse 10

The point of the wreath touches the extreme left base of the I. The A points slightly right of a bead, and the I of INDEPENDENCE has a bead very slightly left of its center. The upright of the 7 points at a space between beads. The left serif of the W is defective, and the top portion of the C is defective. HINGTO may show recutting. The die is similar to Obverse 7.

DIE BREAKS -- A break at the rim below the 8 extending to the right side of the 7. Another through the lower portion of NDE.

Reverse G

There are three berries on the branch. The I points at the space between beads, and the A points at a bead. The T of the initials is over the left side of a bead. The S of the initials is over a bead, is slightly higher than the E, with the lower curve of the S pointing to the center of the period. This reverse is similar to Reverse E. The cap ends below the left leg of A, and is distant.



III. The DRAPED BUST Series

The rationale for the origin of the Draped Bust series follows closely that of the Military Bust series. Here we encounter two basic types, on one the toga is merely draped about the shoulders while on the other there appears a large button at the neckline directly over the shoulder. On the variety without the button (designated as Type I) the initials T.W.I and E.S. have been omitted on the reverse dies but the initial I is located on the obverse dies within the folds of the drapery at the shoulder. The variety with the button on the toga (designated as Type II) exhibits the initials T.W.I. and E.S. on the reverse dies in the same manner as on the Military Bust series.

The Type I specimens (without the button on the toga) have many restrikes from four sets of dies, and in various metals, most of which come with a corded edge. In the year 1851 W.J. Taylor obtained and used one of the reverse dies (Reverse K) in a muling with a MELBOURNE token obverse. These restrikes, other than variety 1-A, are just about all with proof surfaces and apparently were struck solely for collecting, similar to most British Tradesman's Tokens. They were probably struck sometime around the year 1850.

Type I - Without Button on Toga

The obverse shows a large bust of Washington, laureated and draped, facing to the left. The legend around the periphery reads :

WASHINGTON & INDEPENDENCE, 1783.

The initial I for Ingram appears within the toga folds at center.

The reverse shows a female figure facing left, seated upon a rock surrounded by water. In her right hand she holds an olive branch, and her left hand supports the staff of liberty with a cap on the end. Above the figure is the inscription, UNITED STATES, and the exergue is blank.

Type II - With Button on Toga

The obverse shows a large bust of Washington, laureated and draped, facing to the left. On the toga there appears a large button. The legend around the periphery has smaller and finer lettering than on Type I and reads: WASHINGTON & INDEPENDENCE, 1783.

The reverse shows a female figure facing left, seated upon a squared stone surrounded by water. In her right hand she holds an olive branch, and her left hand supports the staff of liberty with a cap on the end. Above the figure is the inscription UNITED STATES and in the exergue the initials T.W.I. and E.S., similar to those used on the reverse of the Military Bust.

Robert A. Vlack

Type I -- Without Button on Toga



13



J



14



15



K



16



MELBOURNE



17



L

Type II -- With Button on Toga



20



P



22



Q



21



R



24



T

● ● ● DESCRIPTIONS OF DIE VARIETIES ● ● ●

The DRAPED BUST Series

13-J (old 1-A) DRAPED BUST -- NO BUTTON Plain edge R1

Obverse 13

The main toga fold ends in a sharp point ending over the center of the 7. The A, and the I of INDEPENDENCE points slightly left of a bead. The upright of the 7 points at a bead. The NDEN is sometimes recut. The C is defective on the top and bottom.

Reverse J

The cap touches the right leg of A. The second leaf from the bottom of the branch on the left has a tiny die break showing a period-like effect at the end of the leaf. A smaller and similar break also occurs at the end of the third leaf up from the bottom on the right side. The center of the I and the A points at about the center of the space between beads. When combined with Obverse 13, the beads may be flattened.

14-J (old 2-A) DRAPED BUST -- NO BUTTON See Chart on Page 652

Obverse 14

The main toga fold curves over the 7 and ends over the extreme right of the upright of the 1. The A points very slightly left of a bead and the I of INDEPENDENCE has a bead slightly right over its center. The C is defective on the bottom. This is the first of the restrikes and normally comes with a plain edge, although one has been seen with a corded edge.

Reverse J

This has been previously described, except that all specimens observed of this combination (14-J) had the beads showing very strong.

15-K (old 3-B) DRAPED BUST -- NO BUTTON Plain edge R8

Obverse 15

The main toga fold curves over the 7 and ends over the center of the 1. The A, and the I of INDEPENDENCE, points very slightly left of a bead. The 7 points at a bead. The C is defective on top. Many of the letters may be recut, especially the NGTON and IND and ND. The 3 has a period directly in back in its apex, and is very close.

DIE BREAKS -- A large break from the rim between the 7 and 8 curving through the 8 and 3 and ending at the rim between the 3 and the period. The beads in this area may be defective.

Reverse K

This is a rework of the die for Reverse J and is the same except for the absence of the period-like breaks at the branch, and no curls along the back of the neck. This reverse also appears with the MELBOURNE muling.

DIE BREAKS -- A chip break occurs in back of the D. The left leg of A is heavy, probably from a rusted die.

16-K (old 4-B) DRAPED BUST -- NO BUTTON Plain edge R8

Obverse 16

This obverse is very similar to Obverse 17. The A has a flat top and shows recutting along the bottom of both legs. The first N of WASHINGTON may be recut with the base of the left leg extending below the base of the I. The final N of WASHINGTON may be recut along the bottom. The A of WASHINGTON, and the I of INDEPENDENCE point to a bead. The upright of the 7 points to a space between beads. This is the second restrike and normally comes with a corded edge.

Reverse K -- Previously described

17-L (old 5-C) DRAPED BUST -- NO BUTTON See Chart on Page 652

Obverse 17

The main toga fold curves over the 7 and ends over the extreme right edge of the upright of the 1. The A has a flat top and is pointing at a bead. The I of INDEPENDENCE has a bead over its center. The upright of the 7 points slightly right of a bead. The O is recut along the bottom, and the 1 and 7 also shows recutting. This is the third and most common of the restrikes. Silver strikes as well as copper have been struck from this combination, and come with a corded edge.

Reverse L

The cap is very close to the right leg of A, but does not touch. The I has a bead over its right center, and the A, which has a flat top, is pointing between beads. The right upright of U slants left.

DIE BREAKS -- A curved break develops across the tops of ATES extending to the water line. Later, another break occurs from the right side of the base of T in UNITED touching the right serif of the T, extending to the rim.

MEL-K (old MEL-B) MELBOURNE MULE Plain edge R4

MELBOURNE Obverse

Kangaroo on ground facing right. MELBOURNE. above.
W.J.TAYLOR, MEDALLIST / TO THE GREAT / EXHIBITION / 1851 in exergue.

William Joseph Taylor (1802-1885) was a skilled and prolific British medallist who exhibited a screw coining press at the 1851 London International Industrial Exhibition (the famous Crystal Palace at Hyde Park). He is credited with large scale restriking activities, commencing about 1862, which continued intermittently for some 20 years utilizing old Soho dies purchased in 1848 when Boulton & Watt's Soho Mint was closed down.

Reverse K -- Previously described

20-P (old 1-A) DRAPED BUST -- WITH BUTTON Plain edge R6**Obverse 20**

The A points slightly right of a bead, and the I of INDEPENDENCE has a bead about over its center. A heavy bead sometimes shows near the rim below the 8, and another slightly right of the 1.

DIE BREAKS -- A break from the rim through the last N of WASHINGTON to the bottom of the & sign, to the first leaf of the wreath. Another from the rim to between the W and A. A minor break also connects the H and I along the bottom.

Reverse P

The cap extends between the A and T and touches the T. The center of the I and A points left of a bead. The T of the initials is over a bead. The S of the initials is over a bead, is slightly higher than the E, with the lower curve of the S pointing to the center of the period. There is no period after the S. The D in UNITED has a period in its center.

DIE BREAKS -- A thin break extends along the bottom of N connecting the base of ITE, with another connecting UNI about one-third down the height of the letters.

20-Q (old 1-B) DRAPED BUST -- WITH BUTTON Plain edge R8**Obverse 20 -- Previously Described****Reverse Q**

The cap extends between the A and T, is very close, but does not touch the T. The center of the I points left of a bead, and the A right of a bead. The T of the initials is over the left edge of a bead. The S of the initials is over the space between beads, is slightly lower than the E, with the lower curvature of the S pointing at the period. There IS a period after the S.

DIE BREAKS -- A break occurs from the top of the D to the center of the left curve of the S. Another connects the tops of the ST and TES. A small break connects the right leg of A with the liberty cap.

21-Q (old 2-B) DRAPED BUST -- WITH BUTTON Plain edge R6**Obverse 21**

The HIN and T of WASHINGTON may have curvature characteristics along their bottoms. All letters of WASHINGTON may show recutting. The A points slightly right of a bead, and the I of INDEPENDENCE points left of a bead. The upright of the 7 points left of a bead. The date may be recut.

DIE BREAKS -- A break from the rim through the A towards the chin. Another from the rim through between the T and O towards the nose. A break from the rim through the right upright of the first N of INDEPENDENCE to the third leaf of the wreath. Another from the rim through the center of the D to the bow at the base of the wreath. A break at the base of the beads creates a minor bulge over the CE. Another break connects the tops of HIGNT.

Reverse Q -- Previously described

22-R (old 3-C) DRAPED BUST -- WITH BUTTON Plain edge R6**Obverse 22**

The GTO may show recutting. The A points at a bead, and the I of INDEPENDENCE points to a space between beads. The upright of the 7 points at a bead. The 7 is very slightly lower than the 1 and 8.

DIE BREAKS -- A small break from the rim to the top of the & sign. Another from the center of the right upright of the last N of WASHINGTON to the bottom of the & sign. Break from the rim between the E and N, curving through the head and neck ending at the left side of the 1. Another from the rim between the last E and the period, curving over the period and 83 ending at the bottom of the bust.

Reverse R

The cap extends between the A and T, and is very close but does not touch the T. The center of the I and A points left of a bead. The T of the initials is over the right edge of a bead, with the period after the I rather distant. The S of the initials is over a space between beads, is slightly lower than the E, with the lower curvature of the S pointing to the bottom of the period. There IS a period after the S which is rather distant.

DIE BREAKS -- A small break from the bottom of the center of the A to the liberty cap.

24-T (old 4-D) DRAPED BUST -- WITH BUTTON Plain edge R8**Obverse 24**

Massive head with bull neck, large ribbon bow behind, toga drapery low and with button, letters and date small, top wreath leaf ends almost midway between & sign and I, toothed border (rather than beaded) with many letters and 83 running into it. Error legend, WASHINGTON & INDEPEDENCE .

Reverse T

Liberty holding a long cone-shaped cap on pole, box not so tall as usual and longer with what looks like four drapery folds on it. There are no initials T.W.I. and E.S. in the exergue. Legend runs into the toothed border.



IV. MISCELLANEOUS VARIETIES with "1783" DATE

Under this heading are three Washington varieties that are included for completeness even though they bear little direct relationship to the Military and Draped Bust series. These are the UNITY STATES, the DOUBLE HEAD and the GEORGIVS TRIUMPHO, which -- with the preceding comprise the nucleus of the large numbers of tokens, medals and storecards that followed this beginning.

The reasons for their inclusion in this writing are rather straight forward. The UNITY STATES and GEORGIVS TRIUMPHO both bear a "1783" date. The DOUBLE HEAD variety, which has no date, so closely resembles the central effigy design of the Military Bust specimens that its inclusion seems singularly appropriate. These, like the preceding, were struck at some later period of time than the "1783" date exhibited -- that date being a commemorative date in honor of the formal conclusion of the War for American Independence.

UNITY STATES

This variety is undoubtedly copied from the early American large cent series that started in 1793. The obverse is patterned after the Draped Bust series, and the reverse after the large cents, probably in an effort to obtain favorable opinion concerning the design. Specimens of variety 27-W are plentiful indicating that a large number were struck from these dies, thus giving strength to the possibility that these were intended as a currency for this country, although struck long after the date as shown.

Reverses W and X are very similar one to the other but can be quickly distinguished by the location of the berries closest to the open ends of the wreath. On reverse W these berries are outside of the wreath, while on reverse X they are inside. Another quick check is the position of the word ONE relative to the leaves of the wreath. On reverse W the tops of O and E both touch the leaves, while on reverse X the tops of O and E are well below the leaves.

**W****27****X**

DOUBLE HEAD

The Double Head copper is probably a pattern of the Washington series intended as a currency for America. A very large number were struck, indicating an intended use as currency. The use of the identical bust on each side appears unworthy as a design for a coinage. Perhaps it was done because the center hub was the only appropriate device available at the time.

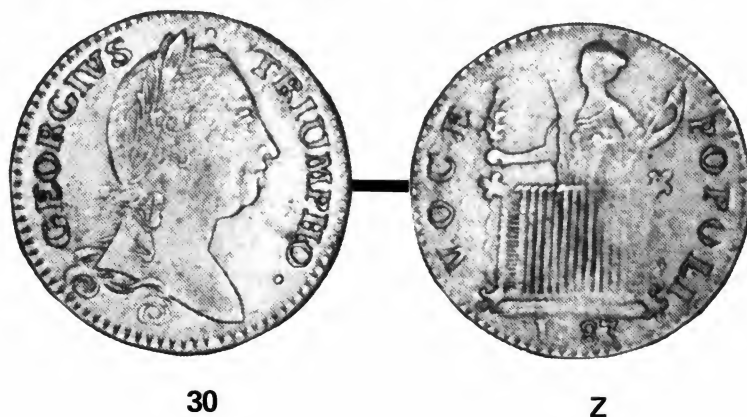


GEORGIVS TRIUMPHO

This token is considered to be a contemporary specimen probably issued around 1790. That it belongs to the Washington series leaves little doubt.

There has been much theorizing with regard to this token, mainly because of the bust device used. The bust is identical to the bust used on the 1774 and 1783 Irish regal halfpenny issue which was struck in London. It is difficult to believe that the coinage was struck for George III, as he had just lost his colonies in America. The bust in all probability was intended to represent George Washington and to commemorate the successful termination of the American War for Independence. The George III bust was probably used by the engraver who thought of using something available rather than cutting a new device, little caring about the controversy he later created.

Early research revealed that this token first circulated in Georgia, then in Virginia. Subsequently, as a result of the English bust of George III, many were destroyed or mutilated. The balance were sent to Jamaica for use as currency. A portion later was discovered to have been used in Florida.



V. CONVERSION & RARITY CHART

The WASHINGTON COPPERS of "1783"

	NEW DESIGNATORS	REMARKS	OLD DESIGNATORS	RARITY
MILITARY BUST	1-A	Corded edge	1-A	R-4
	1-A	Plain edge	1-A	R-4
	2-B	"	2-B	R-7
	3-C	"	3-C	R-7
	4-D	"	4-D	R-5
	5-D	"	5-D	R-4
	6-E	"	6-E	R-2
	7-E	"	7-E	R-1
	8-E	"	8-E	R-1
	9-F	"	9-F	R-2
	10-G	"	10-G	R-1
DRAPED BUST				
TYPE I --- NO BUTTON	13-J	Plain edge	1-A	R-1
	14-J	Corded edge	2-A	R-8
	14-J	Plain edge	2-A	R-6
	14-J	Plain edge - Bronzed	2-A	R-6
	14-J	Plain edge - Silver	2-A	R-8
	15-K	"	3-B	R-8
	16-K	Corded edge	4-B	R-8
	17-L	"	5-C	R-1
	17-L	Corded edge - Bronzed	5-C	R-3
	17-L	Corded edge - Silver	5-C	R-5
	17-L	Corded edge - Gold	5-C	R-8
	MEL-K		MEL-B	R-4
DRAPED BUST				
TYPE II --- WITH BUTTON	20-P	Plain edge	1-A	R-6
	20-Q	"	1-B	R-8
	21-Q	"	2-B	R-6
	22-R	"	3-C	R-6
	24-T	"	4-D	R-8
MISCELLANEOUS				
UNITY STATES	27-W	"	1-A	R-1
	27-X	"	1-B	R-8
DOUBLE HEAD	29-Y	"	---	R-1
GEORGIVS TRIUMPHO	30-Z	"	---	R-1

VLACK RARITY VALUES

R8	1 or 2 known	R4	16 to 20
R7	3 to 5	R3	21 to 30
R6	6 to 10	R2	31 to 45
R5	11 to 15	R1	46 or more